

Sheridan Fire Board

January 9, 2024

Board Members Present: Tammy Heidt, Pete Gutbrod, Cory Chrisman, Gary Giddings, Ray Bottenberg (via Zoom)  
Others Present: Chief Thomas, Marguerite, Mike Michaelson, Jay Payne (via Zoom), Tobias Watson, Steven Cooley.  
Daniel Cummins (Arrived later in meeting.)

Tammy called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**Approval of the minutes:** Gary made a motion to approve the minutes from the Dec. 12, 2023 Board Meeting. Cory seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Financials:** Cory moved to approve the December 2023 financials and Pete seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Public Comments:** Mike Michaelson told the board he is stepping back from all activities as a volunteer. Pete said he was sad to see him go. Tammy, Pete and Chief Thomas thanked Mike for his many years of service.

**Old Business:**

1. **Brush Truck:** The cost to remount the brush truck is \$12,500 + \$2,500 for wiring, light bar, and other add-on costs. Chief asked for board approval to spend \$15,000 for remounting the Brush Truck. (Includes adding a transverse box). The cost will include lowering the reel mount on the brush truck skid. BKs – Radios from the grant can be used and are prewired. It will cost to program the radios – below \$1,000. There is enough equipment from other vehicles to equip it. Timeline: 3 to 6 weeks.
2. **Other equipment:** The District has purchased a 35 ft. ladder to access third story apartments, some of which have been built and some of which will soon be built.
3. **Civil Service Commission:** We lost a member when he was elected to the board. That leaves Amber Deibel and Dave Brandt. A meeting was held on Thursday, Jan. 4. Amber was unable to attend. Jerry Smith and Keith DeJong came. Chief recommended appointing both men to the Civil Service Commission. **Pete made a motion to appoint Keith DeJong and Jerry Smith to the Civil Service Commission. Cory seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
4. **Chief's Report:** (See attached): We are ahead in each category of the budget. We track the public outreach but need to document it in our ESO reports. We have an Interim captain on A shift who will be working with Tony from the State Fire Marshal's Office on Pre-Fire (Pre-response) plans. Cody Heidt has set us up with a plan that will eventually transfer to building inspections. Chute Times are good but there is a flaw in the system. GPS system has not been embraced yet.
5. **Community Outreach** (See Attached): The plastic hats are a big hit. We will reach out to the State Fire Marshal's Office for free stuff.

**New Business:**

1. **Open Positions:** We advertised for three types of positions: Captain, FF/Paramedic and paramedic only. We have 10 applications for the captain/ALS responder. (We will let two of our own, Jensen and Neumann, ride along for experience.) We are working on the testing process and will have a stringent written and practical exam. The list will then be given to the Civil Service Commission for verification. Donna and Phill are filling in shifts for now. We are looking at a two-month buffer to see how payroll will look. Chief doesn't think we will fill all 4 positions that we are short. We are reaching out for a better applicant pool. We can also fill in with part-time paramedics. (One of our former employees came back last weekend to help cover a shift.)
2. **ALS vs. BLS coverage.** We are changing our model from 2 ALS ambulances to 1 ALS and 1 BLS ambulance. (18% of last month's call were ALS). The state requires an associate degree to be a

paramedic which is hurting us. The system is messed up and needs to be revamped. It's going to take time. CCC is not working with us. Ray Woolridge promoted out and a new instructor (Arbuckle) has come in.

3. **Sheridan High School Tech Center.** Chief met with school officials regarding a technical program. The school received \$500,000 grant for a fire tower. They are moving forward with it. There is an advisory committee for the school district.
4. **Approval for capital expenditures:** Expenses to come from capital loan: Brush Truck remount, 35 Ft. ladder and rescue tools. We have a chance to purchase battery-powered Hurst tools for \$39,000. (Someone ordered these and then changed their mind.) Warranties: 10-year on tool and 3-year on battery. Used in rescue class. Brought out for our crews to use. Older tools won't cut the newer vehicle technology. Our Holmatro tools were just reinspected and are good for another year. We would place a full set at Buell and the combi-tool at Ballston. Will need to replace all the tools in 3 – 5 years. Current rescue tools were purchased in 2011 or 2012 when Wade was Chief. Our Combi-Tools are way older (per Pete). Tammy remembers the district purchasing rescue tools. They are no longer here.

**Gary made a motion to spend \$49,241.60 and Cory seconded the motion to purchase the rescue tools from the capital loan. The motion carried.**

5. Kathie will meet with us on Wed., January 17 to go over our quarterly reports. Tammy is available in the morning on 1/17. Gary will check his calendar.
6. OSDA Conference will be in Seaside Feb.9-11. Let Chief know if you are interested in attending.
7. Chief requested permission to have discussions with Ian from Amity regarding a change in direction. The direction we are going is not sustainable. He recommends we don't wait until the last minute to begin working on a new direction. Pete feels confident that Amity would sit down and talk with us. Pete said there used to be strong ties. Chief: We need to have a partner; we need to have roots. "I think it is time." "We only have two volunteers in Ballston; we need help." We could look at training together in the future. The Board concurred with the discussion between Ian and Chief. Pete said he would love to sit in on a discussion.
8. Chief asked Tammy for help with FCI. (We need a new contract/M.O.U. and has been unsuccessful contacting the key people.
9. Steven Brown passed his EMT-Basic testing. Tobias Watson is working to get recertified in Oregon.
10. We have been working on dispatch issues with Coonrod and Cooley.
11. The District is also working with the volunteers and is hoping to find funding for new badges. Chief would like them all the same.

#### **For the Good of the Order**

1. Correspondence from FEMA – National Fire Academy. (See attached.) Congratulations to Chief Thomas for completing the executive program.
2. Cory would like to see the District work with outside people for grant proposal writing and training (Fire and CPR) to bring in additional revenue. He said it would cost \$200 a head for training for the engines. We could offer the training to others rather than outsourcing it. He would like Chief Thomas to look into it.
3. Tammy would like for us to go back to the Siletz tribe for another grant.

Gary made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pete seconded it. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marguerite Alexander